Message Text

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ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01

SS-15 NSC-05 /089 W

- 09663

R 232214Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8891

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CONFIDENTIAL OTTAWA 0714

DEPT PASS TREASURY AND EXIM BANK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ETRD, CA

SUBJ: EXPORT CREDIT GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT

1. JOHN MACDONALD, PRESIDENT, EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, TOLD ECON COUNSELOR AT SOCIAL GATHERING FEBRUARY 18 THAT HE IS VERY NEGATIVE ON GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT. HE SAID DOWN PAYMENT MINIMUMS ARE STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION BUT INTEREST RATE MINIMUMS ARE SO LOW AS TO BE ALMOST MEANINGLESS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MATURITY MAXIMUMS WOULD TIE CANADA'S HANDS IN "ONLY AREA WHERE IT HAS ANY LEVERAGE" WITHOUT ANY CORRESPONDING ADVANTAGE. MACDONALD SAID HE DOES NOT GO ALONG WITH VIEW THAT SOME AGREEMENT IS BETTER THAT NONE AND EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT EX-IM BANKS HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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"CHANGED ITS MIND" ON THIS.

2. PETRIE, ITC CONFIRMS THAT MACDONALD HAS BEEN TAKING SAME LINE IN GOC INTER-GENCY MEETINGS WITH RESULT THAT PAPERS BEING PREPARED FOR MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATION HAVE HAD TO BE REVISED TO REFLECT EDC POSITION. PETRIE SAID IN HIS VIEW EDC POSITION MADE NO SENSE AND HE EXPRESSED SOME CONFIDENCE THAT MINISTERS WOULD OVERRULE MACDONALD AND ACCEPT RECOMMENDATION THAT CANADA SHOULD ACCEPT AGREEMENT.

3. IN VIEW OF PAST AND CONTINUING CLOSE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN TWO INSTITUTIONS, WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO CONSIDER
WHETHER INFORMAL DIRECT APPROACH BY EX-IM TO EDC MIGHT
BE HELPFUL IN REMOVING EDC OBJECTIONS AND IMPROVING
CHANCES OF FAVORABLE GOC DECISION. ENDERS

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NNN

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Subject: EXPORT CREDIT GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT

TAGS: EFIN, ETRD, CA, EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, (MACDONALD, JOHN)

To: STATE

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